

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /168 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2522

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

RAGS: ECON

SUBJECT: CHIRAC SOUNDS A WARNING NOTE TO FRANCE'S EC PARTNERS

1. THE FRENCH WEEKLY LE POINT DATED AUGUST 13 CARRIED AN OUTSPOKEN INTERVIEW OF FRENCH MINAG JACQUES CHIRAC. CHARACTERISTICALLY BAREKNUCKLED CHIRAC CHOSE THE UK AND THE FRG AS THE PARTICULAR TARGET OF HIS BLUNT REMARKS. EXPLICITLY STATING THAT HE WAS UNCONDITIONALLY "ATTACHED" TO PRESIDENT POMPIDOU, CHIRAC WAS VOCIFEROUS IN HIS CRITICISM OF PROPOSALS MADE BY THE EC COMMISSION LAST MONTH TO CUT BACK EC SUGAR PRODUCTION BY 800,000 TONS, INCLUDING 600,000 TONS OF FRENCH PRODUCTION, AND TO ALLOW IMPORTS OF 1,400,000 TONS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH. HE DESCRIBED THIS POLICY AS A "MALTHUSIAN SCANDAL". HE CREDITED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EC COMMISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT CLAUDE CHEYSSON WITH NOW

REALIZING THIS FACT ALTHOUGH HE HAD ALLOWED HIMSELF AT THE TIME TO BE SWAYED BY FELLOW COMMISSIONERS SOAMES AND LARDINOIS. CHIRAC CHARACTERIZED SOAMES AS DEFENDING BRITISH SUGAR INTERESTS AND SIGNALLED OUT THE SUGAR TRUST TATE AND LYLE FOR SPECIAL CRITICISM, CLAIMING ITS SUPPLIERS WERE UNDERPAID.

2. CHIRAC WAS EQUALLY HARD ON FRG, STATING THAT HE WAS PRE-OCCUPIED BY THE DISTANCE GERMANY WAS KEEPING FROM EUROPE. CHIRAC SAID HE HAD FIRST BELIEVED THIS TO BE THE PERSONAL POLICY OF GERMAN MINAG JOSEF ERTL BUT NEW KNEW IT TO BE THAT OF THE BRANDT GOVERNMENT.

3. CHIRAC ALSO CRITICIZED FRANCE'S EC PARTNERS FOR NOT WISHING TO "PAIN" THE U.S. BY ENCOURAGING EUROPEAN SOYBEAN PRODUCTION. HE CONTINUED THAT "EVEN FACED WITH THE AMERICAN EMBARGE - A MARKED AGGRESSION - THEY (THE EC) CONTENTED THEMSELVES BY SENDING LARDINOIS TO WASHINGTON, HAT IN HAND, TO ASK: "PARDON, M'SIEUR, COULD WE HAVE SOME SOYA?"

4. CHIRAC'S REMARKS WERE GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE IN THE AUGUST 13 PARIS PRESS. FIGARO REFERS TO THEM AS "SHATTERING (FRA-CASSANTE)" IN AN INSIDE PAGE ARTICLE. THE ECONOMIC DAILY ECHOS IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "EUROPE IN DISINTEGRATION" CHARACTERIZES CHIRAC'S REMARKS ON THE FRG AS FAITHFULLY TRANSLATING THE SENTIMENTS OF POMPIDOU. THE ECHOS EDITORIAL STATES RE THE FRG THAT "THE PROSPECT OF REUNIFICATION OF THEIR COUNTRY, EVEN AT THE PRICE OF NEUTRALITY, PROBABLY APPEARS MORE EXALTING THAN A EUROPE WHICH DISSOLVES ITSELF IN THE PRICE OF SUGAR AND MEAT." COMBAT IN A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE HEADLINED "EUROPE: THE FRACTURE OF THE RHINE" INTERPRETS THE CHIRAC INTERVIEW AS MEANING PRECISELY THAT "RIEN NE VA PLUS" FOR GREEN EUROPE. LE MONDE ALSO FRONT PAGED CHIRAC'S STATEMENTS DECLARING THEY CALL INTO QUESTION FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS AND EC POLICY TOWARD THE THIRD WORLD.

COMMENT: CHIRAC'S INTERVIEW CONTAINS TWO MAIN THEMES--A DEFENSE OF THE CAP AND AN ATTACK ON GERMAN POLICY. THE DEFENSE OF THE CAP IS PROBABLY MOTIVATED BY TWO CONSIDERATIONS. FIRST, HE MAY BE LOOKING AHEAD TO THE OPENING OF THE MTN AND THE EC REVIEW OF THE CAP THIS FALL AND IS PUTTING THE U.S. AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRANCE'S EC PARTNERS ONCE AGAIN ON NOTICE THAT FRANCE WILL TOLERATE NO TAMPERING WITH THE CAP. SECOND, AS A PRE-EMINENTLY POLITICAL ANIMAL, HE WAS ALSO SPEAKING WITH AN EAR COCKED TO DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL POLITICS.

CHIRAC ALSO REITERATED IN THIS INTERVIEW HIS STRONG EMPHASIS ON WORLD SHORTAGES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND THE NEED

FOR AN ALL-OUT EFFORT BY THE EC TO INCREASE PRODUCTION, ESPECIALLY OF PROTEIN. CHIRAC HOPES TO USE THESE SHORTAGES AS ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF FRENCH SCHEMES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS EC PRODUCTION OF SOYBEANS.

THE CRITICAL REMARKS ABOUT GERMANY ARE ALSO RELATED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE TO THE DEFENSE OF THE CAP AND ARE APPARENTLY INSPIRED BY REPORTS THE FRG IS RETHINKING ITS COMMITMENT TO THE CAP. BUT THEY ALSO CLEARLY REFLECT GROWING DISILLUSIONMENT AND IRRITATION WITH THE FRG, AND BRANDT PERSONALLY, ON THE PART OF POMPIDOU. INDEED, AN EDITORIAL IN THE AUGUST 14 ISSUE OF LE MONDE DECLARES FLATLY, "THE FACT IS THAT THINGS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN GOING BADLY BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, TGT 'SUMMIT' HELD IN JUNE HAVING APPARENTLY SETTLED NOTHING."

AGRICULTURE IS THE IMMEDIATE CONCERN BUT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER GRIEVANCES AS WELL - FOR EXAMPLE, AN ALLEGED PREOCCUPATION WITH OST POLITIK AT THE EXPENSE OF THE EC AND TOO GREAT A CONCERN ABOUT GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. CHIRAC'S REMARKS SHOULD THUS BE VIEWED AS PART OF POMPIDOU'S CURRENT TACTICS DESIGNED TO HEAD THE FRG OFF FROM "FOREIGN ADVENTURES" AND TO KEEP IT ON THE EC RESERVATION. IN OTHER WORDS, WHILE THE INTEMPERATE LANGUAGE OF THE INTERVIEW IS CHARACTERISTICALLY CHIRAC, THE UNDERLYING WARNING COMES STRAIGHT FROM POMPIDOU. STONE

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